

# Status of public administration and regional development in Slovakia

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**Abstract** The Slovak Republic is currently characterized by significant regional disparities between the various regions of Slovakia. Large regional differences are that geographically, historically, culturally and most significant differences are in the economic field. Development of public administration is essential for raising the standard of living and culture of the population. Raising the standard of living is only possible in cooperation of government and citizen. The aim of this paper is to highlight the importance of perception and the use of government as part of the company that performs certain specific functions within the Slovak regions.

**Key words** Public administration, regional development, region, regional policy.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Public sector business requires monitoring and evaluation, especially at the present stage the constantly changing economic and financial crisis, where special attention by all stakeholders focused on uncovering reserves, effective and efficient use of funds spent, naturally the permanent attention to quality improvement services, but also the revenue side of budget management ( Bušík , 2009). Public administration immediately affects every citizen in particular its executive component state and municipal territorial authorities (municipalities and higher territorial units). Public administration thus can be defined as a decision-making activity carried out for this purpose and designated authorities empowered by law, to the extent commandments scope and powers and aimed at ensuring governance ( Pala, 2010). Governments are part of the public sector with a specific status. Guided not by the public sector, but also controls the entire economy. We argue that the type of law is somehow also involved in the management of the entire company. At the same time forms the basis of the control system of the whole society, which is formed as a state.

Public administration in a democratic state is an important Organisational power that uses its activities and forms of social institutions , also defines " rules of the game " and thus ensures the performance of established social, political and socio - economic interests of the state. Individual activities of public administration are contained in the law of the state and at the same time are specified in the practical activities of state bodies ( Berčík , Zajac, 2007) . To modernize public administration and shaping tasks of government in a mixed economy it is necessary to take into account the growing influence of the globalization process, which result in conflict between society and the economy (Ivanička , 2004) . Constantly increasing the competitiveness of countries and regions puts all businesses new requirements. This fact requires new forms and tools to promote, in the area of business, investment and innovation environment, science and research, and in particular the interlinking of these areas. Similarly, competition between the regions themselves and attract new investments require special place for innovation in the system of regional development policy (Kiseľáková, 2007). Regional development is

directly related to the legislation of the country, as well as taking into account the importance of the development of the area governed by the National Development Plan supported by national legislation and EU regional policy (Bačík, Gbúrová , 2009).

## 2. THEORETICAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The issue of regional development is very closely linked with the issue of regional policy, its basic orientation and manner of its practical application in specific regional contexts. In simplified terms, we could say that regional policy as such constitutes an active action to manage the process of economic development in different regions. Several authors point out that regional policy is focused the work of government (central, regional and local level) based on a dynamic and systematic development of the regions, the modification and the spatial structure of the national economy (traits Drobík , 2009).

Chądzynski et al. (2007 , p. 43-44 ) the term regional development indicate a steady rise in the economic potential of the regions and the systematic and continuous improvement of their competitiveness and living standards of its people, which also deserves to socio - economic development of the whole country. "In general, regional development includes economic and social processes in natural - social environment of the region , which should be used but also respecting options , assumptions and peculiarities of the region . Regional development can be seen as ensuring economic growth and social potential of the region whose use has lead to an increase in the standard of living of its people, to social and economic development of the country, with the maintenance of sustainable development ( Jánošová , 2010) .

Economic level of regions significantly affect the resources that act as a factor of regional development. These resources are organized into the following order according to their impact on the economy of regions ( Belajová , Fáziková , 2002) :

- localization companies and their frequency , sectoral structure and economic stability , intensity inside the regional economic ties and the type of organizational forms
- Natural resource regions, their availability and their degree of usability ,
- demographics assessed through qualitative and quantitative characteristics of the population and its movement , the population of the region performs both the labor market and the market for products and services ,
- direct and indirect effects of government economic policy , as well as regional policy and structural policy
- technical and social infrastructure in terms of complexity , quality and quantity , the technical infrastructure has an impact on meeting the needs of the population .

Bearers of development aid may not only domestic public and private, as well as international institutions . Financial security of regional development form ( Bucek , 2008) :

- the state budget and state funds , funds of the European Union ,
- Appropriations budget autonomous regions and municipal budgets,
- means of natural and legal persons ,
- loans
- the contributions of international organizations .

Public administration has its obligations not only to the population, but also the area in which the population lives and works. It is a relationship of permanent and purposeful effort to find his rational and efficient organization and utilization ( Bušík , 2009) . By Ivanička (2004 ) Economic globalization creates differentiation of large world , and therefore its destabilization . Large multinational companies create unlimited space, but social differentiation , which subsequently arises , calling for a different world order logic as well , and another type of rational function. Therefore, strong global movement that wants to revise the current course of globalization. This movement also asks recognize defining the role of the ordinary citizen and the state. Increasingly emerges the need for a new synergistic communicative

world. From an organizational perspective, the government fully institutionalized. It is composed of a set of institutions that have laws specifically designated place in the division of public power, as well as in their own 3trukt [Re (offices and institutions). They have clearly defined substantive, territorial and functional scope, authority and responsibility. Institutionalization of government is an essential way to safeguard the citizen against abuse of public power and public administration fundamentally different from other segments of society (Pala, 2010).

Decentralization is one of the most important processes in relation to changes in the public sector after 1989. Precisely define this concept is very difficult because the conditions of different countries may have different name. Concept of decentralization in different countries may represent different processes. In general we can say that " ... on shifting public authority and responsibility for the execution of public functions from central government to regional, local , quasi- independent state established by the organization or the private sector." (Pirošik et al. , 2004) . Decentralisation is therefore one of the most important processes in the public administration started in Slovakia after 1989. It has become an indispensable part of democratic change, and had a significant impact on the current form of Slovak public administration. Decentralization can greatly help to deepen the democratic character of the political system ( Krnáč , 2010) .

Economic or rather just the financial aspect of public administration dealing with public finances, so public expenditure. From an economic point of view the administration has a very specific position. On the one hand, it is one of the sectors of the national economy, and its achievements are counted in the gross domestic product. On the other hand, government institutions management system comprises not only the public sector but affects the whole society, also in the non-economic manifestations. In this sense, government is "above" all sectors and creates a "control system" of the whole community, formed in the state. An essential feature of effective state public sector balance and optimum. Complementary condition for this is that it must correspond to the fulfillment of public interest, and individuals are involved in public interest so that it either directly involved or may not impair its activity (Protection , 2001) .

### **3. NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL POLICY IN SLOVAKIA**

From 1 January 2002, another level of local government, within the boundaries of administrative regions. In accordance with the Constitution is called the higher territorial unit - HTU. Public administration is therefore currently organized on three levels: country - region - municipality. Each level has its own elected representatives, tasks and responsibilities. Elected representatives of all three levels (National Council, local self-governments, city / municipal council) as well as mayors of cities / mayors and presidents of regional self-government are elected by universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot for a period of four years. Since 1990 a separate model of public administration exists in Slovakia (government - territorial authorities), which operates on three levels: village - County - State ([www.trencin.sk](http://www.trencin.sk)).

The Slovak Government has executive power. In accordance with the so-called. Competence Act, the individual ministries and other central government bodies of executive powers and responsibilities for the execution of state administration. The Ministry of Interior is also responsible for coordinating the local government within individual regions. Basic tasks of government are : economic policy, foreign policy, security policy, defense, civil defense , fire department , courts, prison , customs rights, currency , tax authorities (excluding local taxes ) , post offices, railway, highway system, I . grade, labor and employment services, higher education, selected medical, cultural and educational facilities, airfields ( with regional municipalities and regions ), planning, nature conservation and regional politics ( shared with municipalities and regions). Cities and towns their self-governing (original) powers and

responsibilities in their municipalities may issue generally binding regulations and opinions. The original powers (autonomous operation) include: local roads, public transport, public spaces, greenery, cleanliness, nature and the environment, water management, municipal waste, urban planning, local development, housing, pre-school and school facilities, restrooms, clinics, some hospitals, culture, certification of documents, some offenses, local police, collection of local taxes and fees, participation in regional plans. In selected areas, where it is advantageous for the state, the municipalities entrusted the devolved powers of government. It is a registrar offices, building code and parts of competences in education. These tasks are performed on behalf of the state, the state is responsible for the management and quality of service and financing of these tasks ([www.trencin.sk](http://www.trencin.sk) ).

Since the early 70 20 years century in the EU classification system is used territorial statistical units known by the acronym NUTS (Nomenclature of French des Unités Territoriales Statistique) developed by Eurostat, which was created in order to subdivide the territory of the EU territorial units lower hierarchical range, than are the nation states, and to the needs of the territorial scope of regional statistics. NUTS system is based on a five step hierarchical classification , with three levels relate to the regional level ( NUTS 1 and NUTS 3 ) and two at the local level ( NUTS 4 and NUTS 5 ) (Freedom, 2006) .

V within Slovakia, there are so-called parallel model in which the government fully separate, individual elements of public administration. In other countries it may be called an integrated model of public administration, in which some public administrations simultaneously state administration bodies and local government bodies. According to the classification of territorial units for statistics introduced EROSTATOM, three regional and two local levels. Whole territory of the Slovak Republic is defined as a NUTS 1, NUTS 2 regions consist of two to three NUTS 3 NUTS 3 units are the individual regions. Local levels are LAU 1, consisting of the districts and LAU 2 by the communes .

Territorial administrative units ([www.nsrr.sk](http://www.nsrr.sk) ) :

- NUTS 1 whole territory of the Slovak Republic combined NUTS 2)
- NUTS 2 regions combined (4 territorial units),
- NUTS 3 higher territorial units (8 regions),
- NUTS 4 districts (79 districts),
- NUTS 5 municipalities (2,930 municipalities, including the city of Bratislava and Košice).

Associated regions (clusters of regions) - NUTS 2:

- Bratislava - Bratislava region,
- West Slovakia - the territory of Trnava, Trenčín and Nitra,
- Central Slovakia - Žilina and Banská territory of the region,
- Eastern Slovakia - the Prešov and Košice.

Higher territorial units (regions) - NUTS 3:

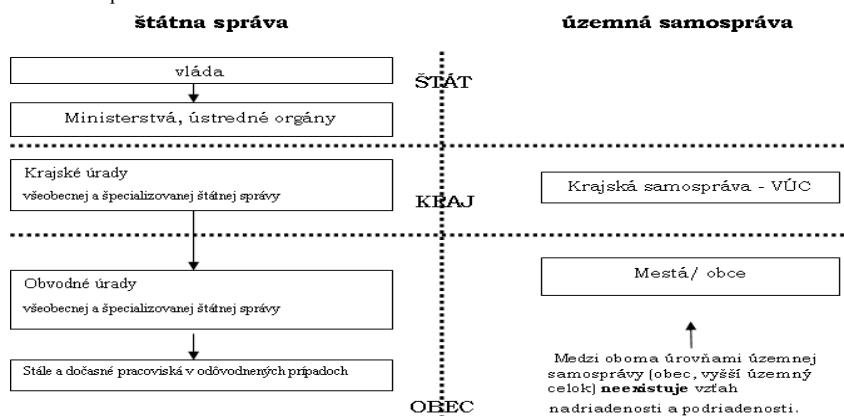
- Bratislava region - defined area 8 districts, the county seat of Bratislava,
- Scotland - defined area 7 districts, the county seat of Trnava,
- Trenčín - defined area 9 districts, the county seat is Trenton,
- Nitra region - defined area 7 districts, the county seat of Nitra,
- Žilina Region - defined area 11 districts, county seat of Žilina,
- Banska Bystrica Region - defined area 13 districts, the county seat of Banska Bystrica,
- Presov Region - defined area 13 districts, the county seat is accurate,
- Košice region - defined area 11 districts, the county seat is Košice .

Figure1: The territorial divisions of the Slovak Republic to the regions



Source: portal.statistics.sk

Chart 1: Structure of public administration since 2004



Source: www.trencin.sk

Public expenditure represents "strongly" an observed variable even within the EU and are also certain measure, a barometer of economic efficiency. Public administration is undoubtedly complicated legal, economic, political, social and cultural phenomenon. It is a historical category, not only as a comprehensive system, but also in the form of activities, ie highly sophisticated activity of specific professional bodies. Therefore, there is a diversity of individual systems of government, whether in the EU or even in the broader dimension (Bušík, 2009).

#### 4. CONCLUSION

In its conclusion, we can say that the position of the general government in national economic context and its constant modernization creates wide issue, which is currently beyond the borders of the country -

region. Public administration has to be seen as part of the social system, responding to the impact of globalization and the challenges arising from the globalization process. By Paľo (2010) quite a serious problem still remains weak application of new management methods in public administration, as well as the absence of effective control methods in the public sector. Prediction and management of the plan depends mainly on the people, their creativity and professionalism. The government creates room for individual central government authorities, which would aim to create organizational and methodological framework conditions for development initiatives in the organizations administrative structures.

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